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SENATE RESOLUTION 10
By Davis L

A RESOLUTION to honor Matt Reel of Austin Peay State University for earning recognition as an All-American football player.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence, bring honor to the state of Tennessee and serve as fine examples of the quality of this state's populace; and

WHEREAS, Matt Reel is one such noteworthy citizen who has attained a remarkable level of athletic success; in 2000, this Austin Peay State University football player was named to the second team of the *Don Hansen Football Gazette* NCAA 1-AA Mid-Major All-America Football Team; and

WHEREAS, standing 6'4" tall and weighing in at 220 pounds, this undersized defensive end might easily have been overlooked by mammoth offensive tackles, but they soon took notice as the relentless Reel used his explosive speed and surprising power to best would-be blockers and disrupt opposing offenses; and

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WHEREAS, a resident of Primm Springs and graduate of Hickman County High School, Mr. Reel amassed sixty-nine tackles during the 2000 season, an immense total for a defensive lineman which led all Governors' linemen; and

WHEREAS, Matt Reel led his team with six quarterback hurries in addition to being credited with one quarterback sack; when not bearing down on an enemy quarterback, this defensive end wrought havoc for offenses by batting down three passes and forcing two fumbles; and

WHEREAS, Austin Peay's foes often found themselves moving in the wrong direction when attempting to find a way around the number 86 player; Mr. Reel finished the season with eleven tackles for loss, a total that was second only to fellow All-American Dustin Wilson on the Governors' squad and resulted in thirty negative yards for opponents; and

WHEREAS, showing commendable determination, fortitude, and resiliency, Matt Reel accumulated his impressive record of accomplishment despite missing one full game and most of another while battling nagging injuries; when fully healthy, he provided a glimpse of his full potential during his performance against Davidson which included ten tackles, two tackles for loss, one pass break-up, and a forced fumble; and

WHEREAS, only a junior during his acclaimed 2000 season, Matt Reel will return to lead Austin Peay's football team as Coach Bill Schmitz's squad joins the Southern Division of the Pioneer League in 2001; as that conferences' coaches prepare for the 2001 season, they will undoubtedly spend many hours in scheming to slow down number 86 for the Governors; and

WHEREAS, Matt Reel epitomizes the spirit and commitment which are vital in achieving success and which are characteristic of a true Tennessean; the talent and determination exhibited by this young man not only have precipitated his remarkable athletic success, but surely bode well for his future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reel's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend Matt Reel of Austin Peay State University for earning recognition as an All-American football player and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.